

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a personal computer, a method of storing data on one or more magnetic or optical data storage media in an encrypted form comprising:
- retrieving an identification code from a non-volatile memory location in said personal computer;
- generating a cryptographic key derived at least in part from said identification code;
- encrypting data for storage on one of said data storage media using said cryptographic key.
2. The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising:
- retrieving information from a memory location; and
- disabling encryption of data routed to one of said data storage media in response to said information.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said retrieving is performed without intervention by a host processor.
4. The method of Claim 3, additionally comprising verifying said key, wherein said verifying occurs without intervention of said host processor.
5. A method of making a computer comprising:
- storing a hardware identifier in a non-volatile memory integrated circuit;
- installing said memory integrated circuit into said computer;
- providing a data path to data storage media;
- coupling a logic circuit comprising an encryption engine to said data path; and
- connecting said memory integrated circuit to said logic circuit.
6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said act of connecting comprises routing a serial data bus from said memory integrated circuit to said logic circuit.
7. In a computer system comprising host computing logic and at least one data storage device, a method of data storage comprising encrypting user generated data with an encryption process, wherein said encryption process is defined at least in part with information assigned to and associated with said host computing logic.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said information is substantially permanently associated with said host computing logic.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein said information comprises a multi-bit identification code.

5 10. The method of Claim 9, additionally comprising the act of deriving an encryption key at least in part from said identification code.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said identification code is stored in a non-volatile memory in said computer system.

10 12. The method of Claim 7, additionally comprising defining said encryption process at least in part from user input to said computer system.

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